

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown below in the complete listing of claims.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The washing appliance according to claim ~~4~~5~~17~~, wherein the inclined drain surface consists of a defined area limited by the guide edges and the drain to the at least one measuring instrument.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The washing appliance according to claim ~~4~~5~~17~~, wherein more than one inclined surface is used, arranged at different angles.

5. (Previously Presented) The washing appliance according to claim 4, further comprising another measuring instrument and wherein signals from the measuring instruments correspond to different surfaces at different angles and are used for calibration or for internal reference of the measuring instruments.

6. (Previously Presented) The washing appliance according to claim 2, wherein a determination of the amount of a draining film of washing liquor is performed over a defined time period in the at least one measuring instrument, the at least one measuring instrument comprising a storage vessel, which can be emptied in defined time intervals and is fed by the draining wash liquor.

7. (Previously Presented) The washing appliance according to claim 2, wherein a determination of an amount of a draining film is performed over a defined time period by an optical fill level gauge, the at least one measuring instrument containing a storage vessel which can be emptied in defined time intervals and is fed by the draining wash liquor.

8. (Previously Presented) The washing appliance according to claim 2, wherein a lower end of the drain surface is arranged in such a manner that the draining liquor leaves it in a drop form and a measured quantity is determined from the number of the drops per time unit and their size.

9. (Previously Presented) The washing appliance according to claim 2, wherein the end of the drain surface is designed in such a manner that a draining liquor film gathers to a continuous fluid stream, and a conductivity of this stream is determined by a suitable measuring instrument.

10. (Previously Presented) The washing appliance according to claim 9, wherein a bottom portion serves as a first electrode and a collection vessel serves as a second electrode and that a parameter based on a geometry of the liquor, flowing from the discharge to the vessel, is determined by a conductivity measurement.

11. (Previously Presented) The washing appliance according to claims 2 or 10, wherein a capacitive sensor is used for measuring the drainage behavior and electrodes of the capacitive sensor are positioned outside the tank.

12. (Previously Presented) The washing appliance according to claim 2, wherein a capacitive sensor is used for measuring the drainage behavior and electrodes of the capacitive sensor are positioned at a lower edge of the drain surface, in the drain, or in a collecting vessel in the at least one measuring instrument itself.

13. (Previously Presented) The washing appliance according to claim 12, wherein the kind of the electrodes is designed in such a manner that a conductive measurement can be performed too.

14-16. (Canceled)

17. (New) A washing appliance comprising:
- a tank for loading washing liquor and items to be washed and having a side wall defining an inside surface with a low portion where liquid will collect;
 - a drum rotatably mounted within the tank;
 - a controller carrying out a predetermined washing program;
 - spaced guide edges projecting inwardly from the inside surface of a side of the tank and extending vertically downwardly from a vertical position above a middle portion of the tank toward the low portion below the middle portion such that the guide edges converge toward the low portion to define therebetween an inclined drain surface provided on the inside surface of the tank to funnel a portion of the washing liquor along the inclined drain surface; and
 - at least one measuring instrument in communication with the inclined drain surface and assessing mechanical properties of such washing liquor funneled along the inclined drain surface on the basis of a drainage behavior thereof.